use for wheat crop during the last three years and so far, during the current year;

(b) the impact of such a decline on wheat production; and

(c) whether Government are taking/have taken measures to ensure that wheat production does not fall, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The area under non-food crops has been increasing over the years. As regards area under wheat cultivation, it has also increased during the last three years from 24.59 million hectares in 1992-93 to 25.70 million hectares in 1994-95. However, the area under wheat has somewhat declined to 25.12 million hectares in 1995-96.

(b) It is tentatively estimated that there has been a decline of about 1.5 million tonnes in wheat production on account of less area reported under wheat in 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of wheat, the Government is implementing an Integrated Cereal Development Programme in What Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) with cropping system approach. Besides, the Government has increased substantially the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat to Rs. 415 per quintal for the 1996-97 crop, which represents an increase of Rs. 35/- per quintal (i.e. 9.2%) over the MSP of wheat fixed for 1995-96 crop.

Integrated Afforstation and Economic Development Projects in North-East Region

868. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of centrally- sponsored integrated afforestation and economic development projects being implemented in the North-East region as on date, with State-wise details;

(b) the number of projects implemented by the State Governments and the NGOs, State-wise; and

(c) the area covered by forests in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The number of projects being implemented in the North-East region under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development projects as on date is as follow:

(i)	Assam	—	1
(ii)	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2
(iii)	Manipur	—	2
(iv)	Meghalaya	—	1
(v)	Mizoram	—	1
(vi)	Nagaland	—	1
(vii)	Tripura	—	1

These are being implemented by state forest departments/district Rural Development Agencies.

(c) The area covered by forests in North-East region is 164359 sq. kms. as per the State of Forest Report 1995.

Doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway line

869. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take up doubling of the Mangalore-Shoranur Railway line in Kerala;

(b) if so, the extent of work done and the amount spent so far;

(c) the target for completion of this project; and

(d) the details of the difficulties faced by Railways in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir, the work has already been taken up.

(b) Earthwork and bridges are in progress between Mangalore and Calicut. Three critical block sections will be completed and opened